

Details: Pandelia's Canary Yellow Company at the Other Space @ The Actors Company, 916 A N. Formosa Ave., West Hollywood. 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Oct. 20. \$30. (323) 960-5770. onstage411.com/swallows



Sequoia Granger, left, Max Pescherine and Charlotte Evelyn Williams in "Are You Listening?" a one-act in Leda Siskind's "The Surveillance Trilogy" at Theatre 40. (Ed Krieger)

‘The Surveillance Trilogy’ at Theatre 40

The essentials: Playwright Leda Siskind’s evening of one-acts, directed by Amanda Conlon, commences with a touching two-hander between a closeted McCarthy-era professor who is more fearful of being outed as gay than he is of having his subversive associations revealed. The second play revolves around the mysterious internal injuries suffered by American diplomats stationed at the Cuban embassy in Havana, as a CIA doctor tries to convince one of the sufferers that her symptoms are psychosomatic. And lastly, a comically intrusive Alexa-like virtual assistant plays mind games on a colorfully unstable family.

Why this? Whether playfully or poignantly rendered, Siskind's characters share a pervasive and justifiable paranoia. The fearful professor and his yearning wife start things off on a serious note, yet Siskind also has a knack for the lighthearted, as demonstrated by her closing play's scathing sendup of our tech-dependent society. Most fascinating, however, is her rigorously fact-based account of the Havana Syndrome, ailments the State Department still attributes to "high-pitched crickets."

Details: Theatre 40, Reuben Cordova Theatre on the campus of Beverly Hills High School, 241 S. Moreno Drive., Beverly Hills. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, 8 p.m. Mondays, through Oct. 14. \$35. (310) 364-0535. theatre40.org

'Representative Misbehavior' at Grove Center

The essentials: When the gubernatorial front-runner is discovered in a brothel — in a Captain America costume, no less — obscure state Representative Steven Chase becomes his party's presumptive nominee. That's the only good news in Steven's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day, as a series of wacky characters and surreal circumstances threaten to plunge his campaign into scandal.

Why this? For those in the mood for a purely escapist farce that won't strain the brain, Tom Walla's over-the-top caper should fill the bill. The play requires the kind of keen pacing that seasoned director L. Flint Esquerra should be well equipped to supply.

Details: Neo Ensemble Theatre at Grove Center Theatre, 1111 W. Olive Ave., Burbank. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Oct. 20. \$30. (213) 533-9982. neoensembletheatre.org

The 99-Seat Beat

This column appears every Friday. Our reviewers shortlist offerings with an emphasis on smaller venues. Some recommendations are shows we've seen; others are based on the track record of the company, playwright, director or cast.